

U.S. EPA Office of Policy

**Draft
Climate Change Adaptation
Implementation Plan
Priority Actions**

February 18, 2022

Deliberative Draft– For Discussion Purposes Only (Do not Cite)

PRIORITY ACTIONS

1.0 Building the Climate Adaptation Program

To help fulfill OP's leadership role, OP is taking action to build its Climate Adaptation Program. This group will advance the work of the *EPA Senior Adaptation Office* through the *Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Adaptation*.

<u>OP Priority Action: 1.0 Build the Climate Adaptation Program</u>		
1.1 Complete OP Implementation Plan		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Complete Plan: Draft Plan - February 18, 2022; Final Plan – August 1, 2022	Track and Report on achievement of OP Implementation Plan priority actions
<i>Performance metric</i>	Plan developed (Yes or No)	% of actions completed
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Multiple; Climate not integrated into EPA policies, regs, programs; No advancement of EPA/OP staff capability	Multiple; Climate not integrated into policies, regs, programs; No advancement of EPA/OP staff capability
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing	Existing

<u>OP Priority Action: 1.0 Build the Climate Adaptation Program</u>		
1.2 Stand up OP Climate Adaptation Program		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Establish formal organization within OP Take administrative actions to enable up to 12 permanent staff positions to be advertised or filled (including 2 positions to support infrastructure bill)	Take administrative actions to enable advertisement or filling of FY23 Op Plan staffing levels (including Infrastructure Law resources) Establish Grant Program (Contingent on resources)

	Set up process and be prepared to promptly allocate FY23 Budget Request (contingent on President Budget request)	
<i>Performance metric</i>	Establish formal organization 50% of permanent staff positions advertised or filled FY 23 President Budget request allocated (contingent on President Budget request)	80% of permanent staff positions advertised or filled Grant Program Established – Contingent on funding) (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Multiple; Climate not integrated into EPA policies, regs, programs; No advancement of EPA/OP staff capability	Multiple; Climate not integrated into policies, regs, programs; No advancement of EPA/OP staff capability
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed
<i>Resource requirements</i>	New resources needed (Baseline 1 FTE)	New resources needed

OP Priority Action: 1.0 Build the Climate Adaptation Program
1.3 Set up process(es) and system(s) to measure progress

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Develop and launch performance measure tracking system; Use system to report on Strategic Plan Measures	Maintain Tracking system and report on Strategic Plan measures
<i>Performance metric</i>	System developed & used to collect and report on measures (Yes or No)	Report on Strategic Plan measures using system (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Multiple; Unable to progress on EPA Strategic Planning measure; Unable to communicate EPA results	Multiple; Unable to progress on EPA Strategic Planning measure; Unable to communicate EPA results
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Ability to communicate results	Ability to communicate results

<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources
<p>OP Priority Action: 1.0 Build the Climate Adaptation Program 1.4 Lead and guide EPA-wide climate adaptation activities</p>		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	<p>Chair and hold meetings (at least monthly) of the Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Adaptation</p> <p>Lead successful development of 20 Regional and Program Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans (as evidenced by Guidance/FAQs/etc)</p> <p>Develop and implement a strategy for ensuring that EPA's Infrastructure Law investments are resilient to the changing climate</p>	<p>Chair and hold meetings (at least monthly) of the Cross-EPA Work Group on Climate Adaptation</p> <p>Guide successful implementation of 20 Regional and Program Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans and complete EPA Climate Action Plan Annual Report and submit to CEQ/OMB (as evidenced by Guidance/FAQs/etc)</p> <p>Guide and track that Infrastructure law investments are resilient to the changing climate</p>
<i>Performance metric</i>	<p>At least monthly Cross-EPA Work Group meetings held</p> <p>20 Regional and Program Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans completed</p> <p>Infrastructure law investment tracking approach in place</p>	<p>At least monthly Cross-EPA Work Group meetings held</p> <p>Completed Annual Report to CEQ (including progress on implementation plans)</p> <p>Infrastructure law investment tracking results</p>
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Multiple; Climate not integrated into EPA policies, regs, programs; Inconsistent tracking of infrastructure project resiliency	Multiple; Climate not integrated into EPA policies, regs, programs; No advancement of program and regional plans; Inconsistent tracking of infrastructure project resiliency
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed	Assistance to partners, climate-ready workforce and facilities, improved measurement and tracking, science needs addressed

<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources; new resources needed (e.g., BIL)	Existing resources; new resources needed (e.g., BIL)
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2.0 Providing Technical Assistance to EPA staff and our partners

OP provides technical assistance to advance climate adaptation to EPA program offices and partners.

<u>OP Priority Action: 2.0 Provide Technical Assistance</u>		
2.1 To EPA - Encourage and assist EPA integrate climate adaptation into grants criteria, regulatory development, and permitting programs		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 2.1.1</i>	Working with Regulatory Programs - include consideration of climate adaptation in at least X rules (Alternatively considering: include consideration of climate adaptation in x rules developed by each NPM with number informed by NPM feedback)	Working with Regulatory Programs - include consideration of climate adaptation in at least X rules.
<i>Performance metric</i>	% of target achieved	% of target achieved
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Ineffective regulations	Ineffective regulations
<i>Co-benefits</i>	More resilient regulatory programs; rule writers able to consider climate impacts	More resilient regulatory programs; rule writers able to consider climate impacts
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

<u>OP Priority Action: 2.0 Provide Technical Assistance</u>		
2.1 To EPA - Encourage and assist EPA integrate climate adaptation into grants criteria, regulatory development, and permitting programs		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 2.1.2</i>	Coordinate with EPA's Permitting Program Offices and Regional	Conduct a scope of analysis to develop a baseline inventory of

	Offices to identify and catalogue their commitments to addressing climate adaptation in permitting per their Climate Adaptation Implementation Plans.	how Permitting Program Offices and Regional Offices are addressing climate adaptation in permitting compared to their commitments to further address climate adaptation, including identifying any gaps that may exist. OFA will use this scope of analysis to identify and assess how it can support Permitting Program Offices and Regional Offices in addressing climate adaptation in permitting. .
<i>Performance metric</i>	Compilation of permitting-related opportunities to advance climate adaptation identified in Program and Regional Implementation Plans	Scoping analysis complete; Recommendation Identified (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Ineffective permits	Ineffective permits
<i>Co-benefits</i>	More resilient permit programs;	More resilient permit programs
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: 2.0 Provide Technical Assistance

2.2 To Partners - Provide assistance through the Office of Community Revitalization and the Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X)

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 2.2.1</i>	Assess existing programs and tools for potential opportunities to advance climate adaptation in community revitalization	Revise or develop new tools [that partners identify as priority needs] Oversee new Technical Assistance Grants allocation (contingent on new funding in proposed FY23 request)
<i>Performance metric</i>	Assessment Complete (Yes or No)	New tools develop, based on FY22 assessment (Yes or No)

		Percent of grant funding allocated to programs
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Partner adaptive capacity	Partner adaptive capacity
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Increased partner capacity; community revitalization; economic development; additional environmental, health, and equity benefits	Increased partner capacity; community revitalization; economic development; additional environmental, health, and equity benefits
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

<u>OP Priority Action: 2.0 Provide Technical Assistance</u> 2.2 To Partners - Provide assistance through the Office of Community Revitalization and the Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X)		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 2.2.2</i>	Increase by 50% the number of community revitalization planning and technical assistance projects that consider climate adaptation as part of the project	Increase by additional 50% the 2021 baseline number of community revitalization planning and technical assistance projects that consider climate adaptation as part of the project.
<i>Performance metric</i>	% increase in the number of community revitalization planning and technical assistance projects that consider climate adaptation as part of the project	% increase in the number of community revitalization planning and technical assistance projects that consider climate adaptation as part of the project
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Partner adaptive capacity	Partner adaptive capacity
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Increased partner capacity; community revitalization; economic development; additional environmental, health, and equity benefits	Increased partner capacity; community revitalization; economic development; additional environmental, health, and equity benefits
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

<u>OP Priority Action: 2.0 Provide Technical Assistance</u> 2.2 To Partners - Provide assistance through the Office of Community Revitalization and the Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X)		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i> 2.2.3	Finalize update to ARC-X "Tailor Your Search" approach to simplify transfer of code and content to partners Work with Cross-EPA Work Group to conduct 'status review' of Tools in ARC-X	Work with partner university to add 2 new “similar” State-level system (ARC-X) or international community
<i>Performance metric</i>	“Tailor Your Search” Update completed Cross-EPA Work Group review completed	Number of new ‘similar’ systems deployed
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Partner adaptive capacity	Partner adaptive capacity
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Increased partner capacity	Increased partner capacity
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

3.0 Enhancing EPA Training and Guidance

OP will develop and deliver effective training to advance EPA staff capacity and inclusion of climate change in rule writing.

OP Priority Action: 3.0 Enhance EPA Training and Guidance		
3.1 Develop and deliver effective training and ADP guidance to EPA's rule writing community		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Develop Climate Adaptation Training for Rule writers and host "Just-In Time Training" session	Incorporate climate adaptation considerations for rules and Reports to Congress through development of an Action Aid in the ADP Guidance. Host Semi-annual Climate Adaptation Training for Rule writers' sessions
<i>Performance metric</i>	Training developed and delivered (Yes or No)	Guidance develop and issued (Yes or No) Semi-annual training sessions held (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	EPA rule writing staff capacity; ineffective rules that do not consider climate change impacts	EPA rule writing staff adaptive capacity; ineffective rules that do not consider climate change impacts
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Increased rule writer capacity	Increased rule writer capacity
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: 3.0 Enhance EPA Training and Guidance		
3.2 Develop technical guidance for EPA's rulewriting community		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Conduct assessment of regulatory workgroup needs and opportunities to develop technical guidance or training related to incorporating climate	Work with NPMs to develop technical guidance for rule writers (general or rule specific TBD)

	adaptation into regulatory programs	
<i>Performance metric</i>	Assessment completed and recommendations identified (Yes or No)	Technical Guidance completed (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	EPA rule writing staff capacity; ineffective rules that do not consider climate change impacts	EPA rule writing staff capacity; ineffective rules that do not consider climate change impacts
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Increased rule writer capacity; more effective rules	Increased rule writer capacity; more effective rules
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

4.0 Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

OP Priority Action: Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

4.1 Engage with communities who have environmental justice concerns

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 4.1.1</i>	Conduct 4 community revitalization projects that address equity and climate adaptation	Conduct 4 community revitalization projects that address equity and climate adaptation
<i>Performance metric</i>	% of target accomplished	% of target accomplished
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Addressing needs of most vulnerable	Addressing needs of most vulnerable
<i>Co-benefits</i>	EPA staff capacity building; additional environmental, economic, health, and equity benefits associated with community revitalization	EPA staff capacity building; additional environmental, economic, health, and equity benefits associated with community revitalization
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

4.1 Expand engagements and activities focused on tribal and indigenous communities

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i> 4.1.2	Conduct 1 community revitalization project in a tribal community that addresses equity and climate adaptation	Conduct 1 community revitalization project in a tribal community that addresses equity and climate adaptation
<i>Performance metric</i>	# of tribal and indigenous communities engaged (after getting baseline, to measure expansion)	# of tribal and indigenous communities engaged; # of projects performed.
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Adaptive capacity of tribal and indigenous communities	Adaptive capacity of tribal and indigenous communities
<i>Co-benefits</i>	EPA staff capacity building; additional environmental, economic, health, and equity benefits associated with community revitalization	EPA staff capacity building
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

4.2 Improve EJScreen

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Add 2 climate-related measures to EJScreen	Complete climate training; Provide consulting to at least XX program and regional offices
<i>Performance metric</i>	Updates completed	% of target accomplished
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Addressing needs of most vulnerable	Addressing needs of most vulnerable
<i>Co-benefits</i>	EPA and partner capacity	EPA and partner capacity

<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources
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OP Priority Action: Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

4.3 Oversee the development of priority actions and commitments by the Programs and Regions focused on increasing the resilience of communities and individuals which are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Include EJ measures in Climate Adaptation annual performance goals and measure results # of Implementation Plans addressing EJ concerns	Include EJ measures in Climate Adaptation annual performance goals and measure results
<i>Performance metric</i>	EJ measures results reported (Yes or No) % of Implementation Plans (baseline 20 plans)	EJ measures results reported (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Addressing needs of most vulnerable	Addressing needs of most vulnerable
<i>Co-benefits</i>	EPA staff capacity	EPA staff capacity
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: Focusing on communities that are expected to be disproportionately affected by the changing climate

4.4 Advance environmental justice in the ARC-X

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Develop and publish at least 3 EJ spotlights in ARC-X system	Add at least an additional 10 EJ Spotlights in ARC-X
<i>Performance metric</i>	At least 3 spotlights available in ARC-X (Yes or No)	At least 10 spotlights available in ARC-X (Yes or No)
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Addressing needs of most vulnerable	Addressing needs of most vulnerable
<i>Co-benefits</i>	EPA staff and partner capacity	EPA staff and partner capacity

<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources
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5.0 Leveraging national and international voluntary standards and/or policies

OP will continue to lead efforts to include climate adaptation considerations in consensus-based voluntary standards.

<u>OP Priority Action:</u> 5.0 Leverage national and international voluntary standards and/or policies		
5.1 Contribute to interagency building codes efforts (MITFLG – FEMA)		
	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	<p>Complete scoping assessment of which building codes offer the most promise in advancing resiliency to future climate change.</p> <p>Identify EPA building codes coordinator to sit on standard setting committees and act as liaison to rest of agency to strategically integrate EPA expertise in standards setting processes</p>	Implement decisions from scoping exercise
<i>Performance metric</i>	Scoping assessment complete	TBD, based on scoping FY22 activities
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Lack of climate considerations in standard setting efforts	Lack of climate considerations in standard setting efforts
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Partner capacity building	Partner capacity building
<i>Resource requirements</i>	New resources	New resources

OP Priority Action: 5.0 Leverage national and international voluntary standards and/or policies

5.2 Advance sector-based activities targeting climate adaptation

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	Work with EPA's standards executive and program offices to identify opportunities to advance climate adaptation through the adoption of national and international sector-based standards and/or policies.	Continue to work with EPA's standards executive and program offices to identify opportunities to advance climate adaptation through the adoption of national and international sector-based standards and/or policies, as such standards and policies evolve.
<i>Performance metric</i>	Scoping assessment complete	TBD, based on scoping FY22 activities
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Lack of climate considerations in key sector-based areas	Lack of climate considerations in key sector-based areas
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Partner capacity building	Partner capacity building
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: 5.0 Leverage national and international voluntary standards and/or policies

5.3 Explore EPA climate adaptation trainings to support national and international standards development

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>		Consider using or adapting <i>Climate Adaptation Training for Rule Writers</i> and <i>Climate Adaptation Technical Training for Rule Writers</i> to advance national and international standards development
<i>Performance metric</i>		Assessment completed
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>		Lack of climate considerations in standard setting efforts

<i>Co-benefits</i>		EPA staff and Partner capacity building
<i>Resource requirements</i>		Existing resources

6.0 Engaging interagency programs and processes as part of a whole of government approach

OP will continue to work with federal partners to advance climate adaptation as part of a whole-of-government approach.

OP Priority Action: 6.0 Engage interagency programs and processes as part of a whole-of-government approach

6.1 Enhance consideration of climate adaptation in EPA's review of other agency NEPA documents and in EPA's compliance with NEPA

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure</i>	<p>Working with regional NEPA programs, conduct a scope of analysis to inform a meaningful and measurable FY23 metric, including assessment of baseline information and piloting proposed metric.</p> <p>In addition prior to the end of FY22, OFA will sponsor a webinar for all NEPA/309 program staff on reviewing and assessing consideration of climate adaptation in NEPA analysis to ensure all staff have adequate baseline knowledge to support FY23 metric implementation.</p>	TBD. Based on scoping analysis in FY22
<i>Performance metric</i>	<p>Complete scoping analysis (Yes or No)</p> <p>Hold seminar (Yes or No)</p>	TBD

<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Climate considerations in NEPA reviews	Climate considerations in NEPA reviews
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Climate mitigation, EPA capacity building	Climate mitigation, EPA capacity building
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: 6.0 Engage interagency programs and processes as part of a whole-of-government approach

6.2 Actively participate, working with colleagues in regions and programs, to support a whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis through interagency coordination

	FY2022	FY2023
<i>Sub-measure 6.2.1</i>	Support the Administrator on the Extreme Heat Interagency Working Group (IWG) and other climate adaptation IWGs Incorporate climate adaptation into 3 specific engagements with other federal agencies	TBD
<i>Performance metric</i>	IWG participation (Number of IWGs/equivalents) % of engagements completed	TBD
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Partner capacity	Partner capacity
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Whole-of Government approach	Whole-of Government approach
<i>Resource requirements</i>	Existing resources	Existing resources

OP Priority Action: 6.0 Engage interagency programs and processes as part of a whole-of-government approach

6.2 Actively participate, working with colleagues in regions and programs, to support a whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis through interagency coordination

	FY2022	FY2023
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<i>Sub-measure 6.2.2</i>	Per Executive Order 14057, <i>Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability</i> ¹ , coordinate with OPM and others on climate adaptation training opportunities	TBD
<i>Performance metric</i>	Coordination with OPM	TBD
<i>Associated Vulnerability</i>	Federal partner capacity	Federal partner capacity
<i>Co-benefits</i>	Whole-of Government approach	Whole-of Government approach
<i>Resource requirements</i>	New resources required (depending on initial engagement with OPM)	New resources required

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/08/executive-order-on-catalyzing-clean-energy-industries-and-jobs-through-federal-sustainability/> (see Section 401, Engaging, Educating, and Training the Federal Workforce).